(d) what efforts are being made to make these roads fit to travel at the speed of 100 km/hr.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The total length of National Highways passing through the State of Bihar is 3301 kms. Out of which 2035 kms. were upgraded to National Highways during the 9th Plan.

(b) to (d) A total length of 723 km. is planned for four-laning under 'Golden Quadrilateral' and East-West Corridor of National Highways Development Programme (NHDP), being implemented by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). Four-laning under 'Golden Quadrilateral' in a length 206 km. at an estimated cost of Rs.1400 crores is targeted for substantial completion by December, 2003, and four-laning under East-West Corridor in a length of 517 km. at an estimated cost of Rs.2400 crores is targeted for completion by December, 2007. Riding quality of 1173 km. length of NH's at an estimated cost of Rs.175 crores has been improved since 1999. Estimate for improvement of riding quality for another 377 km. of NH's at an estimated cost of Rs.75 crores stands sanctioned and works are in various stages of progress. Improvement of balance length of 1028 km. is planned to be taken up in the next two years. The roads under NHDP are designed for speed of 100 km./hr. and National Highways after improvement of riding quality would be fit for 60 km./hr. speed. However, the speed depends on several factors and speed limit is notified accordingly by the State Government.

Development and maintenance/repair of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up based on traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Registration of vehicles

1741. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the system of disposal prescribed for the old registration number of vehicles;

(b) when the new system of registration of Motor Vehicles came into force;

(c) whether Government are aware that several transport authorities are still using old system of registration; and

(d) if so, how and under what authority, alongwith the action being contemplated against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The new system of registration mark came into force on 1st July, 1989. The new system of registration, however, does not disturb the registration mark already allotted to the vehicles as per the old registration patterns, which is being continued.

(d) Does not arise.

Weak bridges on National Highways in A.P.

1742. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified weak and narrow bridges and culverts on the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh for reconstruction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the reconstruction work on these bridges and culverts would commence and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 91 nos of bridges have been identified for widening and 42 nos of bridges and 127 nos of culverts have been identified for reconstruction, mainly because these are very old.

(c) 18 nos of bridges and 75 nos. of culverts are included in the Annual Plan 2002-03 for reconstruction/widening. In addition, 2 bridges on North-South Corridor are proposed to be reconstructed under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Reconstruction/widening of the balance bridges and culverts will be taken up in a phased manner depending on the inter-se priority and availability of funds. It is too early to indicate dates of commencement and completion of these bridges and culverts.